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papers, and contributed numerous articles to the cyclopædias. Thomson early saw the truth in the theory of evolution, and taugt it when it was not fashionable.

— Dr. George Engelmann, born at Frankfurt on-the-Main, February 2d, 1809, died, in the midst of his scientific labors, at his home in St. Louis, on Monday, February 4th, 1884, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

— The grand honorary Walker prize of \$1000 has been awarded by the Boston Society of Natural History to Professor James Hall, of Albany, for his palæontological investigations.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, April 15–18.—The number of members present was nearly forty, the session lasting four days. An interesting feature of the meeting was the announcement that Mrs. J. Lawrence Smith has presented, as a memorial of her husband, a member lately deceased, a fund of \$8000 for the promotion of research on meteorites. Five new members were elected, viz., Edward S. Dana, C. B. Comstock, S. I. Smith, C. E. Dutton and W. K. Brooks.

The following papers were read :

- The sufficiency of terrestrial rotation to deflect river courses. G. K. Gilbert.
- The origin of crystalline rocks. T. Sterry Hunt.
- On the photographs of the transit of Venus taken at the Lick observatory. Simon Newcomb.
- Zoölogical results of the deep-sea dredging expedition of the U. S. Fish Commission steamer *Albatross*. A. E. Verrill.
- The quantitative estimation of carbon in ordinary phosphorus. Ira Remsen.
- Reduction of halogen derivatives of carbon compounds. Ira Remsen.
- Reduction of barometric observations to sea level. Elias Loomis.
- The study of comparative biography. C. S. Peirce.
- Whether there is a minimum perceptible difference of sensation. C. S. Peirce and J. Jastrow.
- The character of the heat radiated from the soil. S. P. Langley.
- On the depth of the western part of the Atlantic ocean and Gulf of Mexico, with an exhibition of a relief model. J. E. Hilgard.
- On the relative levels of the western part of the Atlantic ocean and Gulf of Mexico with respect to the Gulf Stream. J. E. Hilgard.
- On the structure and affinities of *Didymodus*, a still living genus of sharks of the Carboniferous period. E. D. Cope.
- On the North American species of *Mastodon*. E. D. Cope.
- The characteristics of the Lymerous Fishes. Theo. Gill and John A. Ryder.
- On the classification of the apodal fishes. Theo. Gill and John A. Ryder (by invitation).
- On the ichthyological peculiarities of the Bassalian realm. Theo. Gill.
- On the fritts selenium cell. Geo. F. Barker.
- On a lantern voltmeter. Geo. F. Barker.
- On the occurrence of mercury in native silver from Lake Superior. Geo. J. Brush.
- Progress in making a new photograph of the spectrum. H. A. Rowland.
- On the existence of tin ore in the older rocks of the Blue Ridge. B. Silliman.
- The Krakatoa atmospheric waves and the question of a connection between barometric pressure and atmospheric electricity. H. M. Paul (by invitation).
- Memorandum on composite photographs in craniology. John S. Billings.
- Some experiments upon the spectra of oxygen. A. W. Wright.

On the application of trinomial nomenclature to zoölogy. Elliott Coues.  
Some recent results of the oral and aural teaching of the deaf under the continued system. E. M. Gallaudet (by invitation).  
Jade implements from Alaska. F. W. Clarke.  
Recent progress in electrical fuses. Henry L. Abbott.  
The volcanic sand which fell at Unalashka, Oct. 20, 1883, and some considerations concerning its composition. J. S. Diller (by invitation).

Biographical memoirs of Gen. G. K. Warren, by Henry L. Abbott; of Professor Stephen Alexander, by L. A. Young; of Dr. J. Lawrence Smith, by B. Silliman, and of Dr. John L. LeConte, by S. H. Scudder, were read at an evening session of the academy.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, April 5.—Communications by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger on the shedding of the claws in ptarmigan; by Mr. William H. Dall on the fishery exports of San Francisco in 1883; by Professor C. V. Riley on rusty oranges; Mr. F. A. Lucas exhibited a series of skulls of American Canidæ; Dr. D. E. Salmon remarked on the recent outbreak of the so-called "foot and throat disease" in the West; Dr. E. P. Howland on the effects of anæsthetics on the animal organization, with experiments and clinic on animals, showing the peculiar effects of the new anæsthetic, nitrous oxide and oxygen, administered in condensed air chambers.

April 19.—Communications by Dr. Cyrus Thomas on the growth of trees as a means of determining the age of mounds; by Mr. John Murdoch on dredging and marine collecting at Point Barrow; by Dr. Tarleton H. Bean on the distribution of the Salmonidæ in Alaska; Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, U.S.A., on the occurrence of a pair of free ribs on the occipital bone of the large-mouthed black bass, *Micropterus salmonides*, with specimen.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, April 7.—A paper on the hydraulics of the Mississippi from Cairo to the gulf was read by William L. Elseffer, C.E.

April 14.—The following paper was read: The uniformity of geological climate, by Professor Charles B. Warring.

April 28.—The following papers were read (in continuation of the subject presented on March 10): II. The "singing beaches of the Baltic; III. The sonorous sand-hills of Arabia and Afghanistan, by Professor H. Carrington Bolton.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, April 2.—Professor G. Fred. Wright spoke of the glacial dam at Cincinnati, and on the boundary of the glaciated area of Indiana; Professor Edw. S. Morse discussed the ancient and modern methods of arrow release.

April 16.—Dr. M. E. Wadsworth presented a paper on the relation of the "Keweenaw series" to the "Eastern sandstone" in the vicinity of Torch lake, Michigan.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, April 9.—A paper by Professor W. W. Bailey entitled, "Recollections of the West Humboldt mountains, Nevada," was read; Rev. Luther Farnham read a paper entitled, "Three Visits to the White mountains in 1837, 1862 and 1883;" Information was given concerning recent ascents in New Zealand among the Himalayas.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, March 31.—Chief-Justice Daly, LL.D., delivered his annual address as president of the society, entitled recent developments in Central Africa and the valley of the Congo.

April 25.—General Jas. Grant Wilson delivered a lecture entitled memorials and footprints of Columbus, illustrated with stereopticon views.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Jan. 31.—Dr. Leidy exhibited some fossil bones from the salt mine of New Iberia, Louisiana, including remains of *Equus americanus* and two tibiae of an adult *Mylodon*. A piece of matting had been found in association with mastodon teeth, but there was no evidence of their contemporaneity. Dr. Leidy stated that he had found, in specimens of drift from Central Minnesota, two species of foraminifera so closely resembling *Textularia globulosa* and *Rotalia globulosa* that no distinctive characters could be determined.

Feb. 2.—A paper by Miss Foulke, describing *Apsilus bipera*, was read. The author united *Apsilus*, *Dictyophora* and *Cupeolophorus* under *Apsilus*. Professor Lewis announced the discovery of fossils in the Triassic red shale near Phoenixville, in a stratum probably 1000 feet below those previously discovered near that place. Five species of lamellibranchs, a fish and some plants were among the remains. The two species of *Unio* were regarded as probably the most ancient yet discovered. Professor Heilprin stated his belief that some of the Carboniferous bivalves which had been described under other names were true *Unios*.

Feb. 14.—Dr. McCook exhibited a drawing of the nest of the California spider, *Pucilia aurora*, which places its cocoons under flowers, and secures them by a maze of lines to the neighboring branches. The speaker also described the cocoons of *Segestria canites*, which are placed one above the other to the number of eight, and held in place by lines to the branches on each side of a pathway. A tube, the home of the spider, runs up one side of the suspended nests. The cocoons were frequently torn away by passing animals, but this simply aided distribution. An example of *Nephila plumipes* from the silk of which species Professor Wilder had woven small ribbons, was exhibited. Mr. Potts gave an account of the sponges found in the forebay of the Philadelphia water-works, and announced his belief that the sarcode of fresh-water sponges does not slough off at the approach of winter, and therefore that these organisms do not pollute the water. He believed that the whole of the sarcode retired into the statoblasts, from which it issued again in spring.